



MAINE FARMER.
BAGDER & MANLEY, Publishers and Proprietors.
Augusta, Maine, Thursday Morning, March 15, 1883.

Knowledge is Power.
We lay before our readers this week, the first of a series of articles on insects injurious to vegetation, by Prof. C. H. Fernald of the Maine State College. No person in Maine is so well qualified for such an undertaking as he, and there are few anywhere more proficient in this branch of natural history. He is an enthusiast in his chosen profession, and has devoted many years of close study and investigation to it. The initial article will appear in this issue, and is introductory to what is to follow, and is devoted mainly to definitions and explanations of such technical terms as are necessary to an intelligent description of insects, their habits, parasites, and available methods of preventing their ravages. The demand for crops of all kinds by insects, and the much greater doubtless than most people are aware of. No field or garden crop can be mentioned that has not its insect enemies, more or less of them. Many of them are repulsive and disgusting to look upon, while others are beautiful and attractive. They are all of them, however, injurious to the growth of crops. The purpose of classification, and perhaps only incidentally, to ascertain in what way they are injurious to crops.

Experimentation Station Work.
We are indebted to Prof. S. W. Johnson, Director of the Connecticut Experiment Station for a copy of his report for the past year. This document gives a full account of the operations of the Station for 1882, and shows intelligence and thoroughness in every department of the work, and we believe that its careful perusal would convince any one of the great importance of such a station to the farming interests of every State. Until September, 1882, it had been the property of the Connecticut Agricultural School; but a purchase of five acres having been made last year, a mile and a half from the City Hall of New Haven, the offices have been removed to that place. The lot, with its building, cost \$12,000, and the building, with its furniture, fixtures, and equipment, cost \$10,000. The building is a two-story structure, with a large hall, and is well adapted for the purpose. The equipment is complete, and the Station is now prepared to analyze and test fertilizers, cattle foods, seeds, soils, waters, milks, and other agricultural materials; to identify grasses, weeds, and other plants; to identify insects, and to give information on various subjects of agricultural science for the use of the citizens of Connecticut. It makes analyses without charge for citizens of the State, where the required conditions are observed by consumers, and for manufacturers and others at a moderate price.

Thin or Thin Seeding.
This seeding, says Mr. J. B. Law, by which most of our crops are sown, is a waste of what power has, often been recommended and tried in England, but has generally been abandoned, and the practice is now sown from 1 1/2 to 2 bushels per acre. If land is very fertile, and wheat had no enemies, it would be a waste of seed to sow less than 2 bushels per acre. But, as we have explained, it is just the mixture that is acceptable to the little rodents of various plants. Next to this, I find from seventy-five to a hundred pounds of bone dust to the acre, without any preparation except to mix with dry woods dirt so it can be evenly distributed—say one hundred and fifty pounds of dust to five hundred pounds of loam—and then apply broadcast, as before, putting this amount on two acres.

Communications.
For the Maine Farmer.
What Varieties to Grow.
After fifty years of successful fruit growing in our State it would seem that the question of profitable varieties ought to be one of the first things that come to the mind of the grower. It is not, for all questions pertaining to the business, that of varieties is the most important. It is the one that is most frequently raised. Let us look at this question from a few points.

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